

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S GOAL THAT 60 PERCENT OF IDAHO CITIZENS AGES 25-34 EARN A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE BY 2020 TO MEET THE STATE'S WORKFORCE NEEDS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho must grow talent within the state to fuel innovation and competitiveness to support a robust economy; and

WHEREAS, increased education attainment improves the quality of life for Idahoans by providing access to jobs with higher wages that support families and create opportunities for personal financial security; and

WHEREAS, the jobs of the future are increasingly automated and technology driven; and

WHEREAS, the state must support an education system in which students graduate with the knowledge and skills that maximize their potential for success in the workforce while providing businesses with the necessary talent to thrive; and

WHEREAS, there will continue to be a shortage of Idahoans with postsecondary degrees, certificates and education credentials to meet future workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, bolstering postsecondary academic and career technical education opportunities in high demand fields, such as health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing and transportation are increasingly important in meeting workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has set a goal that 60 percent of citizens ages 25-34 attain a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020; and

WHEREAS, currently only 40 percent of citizens have a postsecondary degree or certificate; and

WHEREAS, Idaho must increase the number of citizens ages 25-34 with a postsecondary degree or a certificate by at least five percentage points a year in order to reach the 60 percent goal; and

WHEREAS, 52 percent of Idaho's high school graduates are pursuing higher education within one year of high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted local college and career advising programs and dual credit, career technical and advanced placement programs to help students jump-start their higher education by setting college and career goals and earning college credit while in high school; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has implemented the Direct Admissions initiative to provide Idaho high school graduates the opportunity to enroll in an Idaho public higher education institution; and

WHEREAS, 28 percent of Idaho adults over the age of 25 have attended college but have not completed a degree; and

1 WHEREAS, Idaho's colleges and universities have undertaken initiatives  
2 to address college access, affordability, retention and graduation; and

3 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Idaho commit to efficiently and effec-  
4 tively increasing postsecondary degrees and certificates; and

5 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has joined the Complete College  
6 American Alliance of States to become a recognized leader in talent creation  
7 and workforce development; and

8 WHEREAS, Idaho must encourage families to prepare our children for edu-  
9 cational attainment by helping them prepare for school, encouraging them to  
10 read and value education.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
12 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Repre-  
13 sentatives concurring therein, that Idaho's education system kindergarten  
14 through career should focus on ensuring that Idaho students are prepared for  
15 success at the postsecondary level and in the workforce.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that parents, the State Board of Education, the  
17 State Department of Education, the Division of Professional-Technical Ed-  
18 ucation, the public higher education institutions, the Department of Labor  
19 and the Department of Commerce work with educators, representatives from  
20 business and industry, the Governor and the Legislature to promote policies  
21 and programs that ensure Idaho is making progress toward the "60 by 20" goal  
22 and that the State Board of Education will report annually to the Legislature  
23 on such progress.